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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 002152

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA  
NSC FOR PASCUAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/07/2028  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [EG](#)  
SUBJECT: MUBARAK COMMUTES SENTENCE OF INDEPENDENT EDITOR  
EISSA

REF: A. CAIRO 2122 B. CAIRO 595 C. 07 CAIRO 2936 D. 07 CAIRO 2825 AND PREVIOUS Classified By: DCM Matthew Tueller for reason 1.4 (d).  
1.(C) Summary and comment: On October 6, President Mubarak issued a presidential decree commuting the two-month prison sentence of independent  
2.(C) On October 6, a national holiday as Egypt's Armed Forces Day, President Mubarak issued a presidential decree pardoning independent "Al-Dc  
3.(C) Abu Seada told us that the presidential decree took Eissa's legal team by surprise, and that the lawyers were not in direct contact with  
4.(C) Abu Seada speculated that Mubarak decided to commute Eissa's sentence following public criticism of the court decision from influential p  
5.(C) Independent newspaper "Al-Masry Al-Youm" founder Hisham Kassem told us October 7 he believed the two-month sentence constituted a GOE att  
6.(C) Comment: Faced with pressure from sources close to the government such as Journalists' Syndicate President Ahmad, the National Council fc